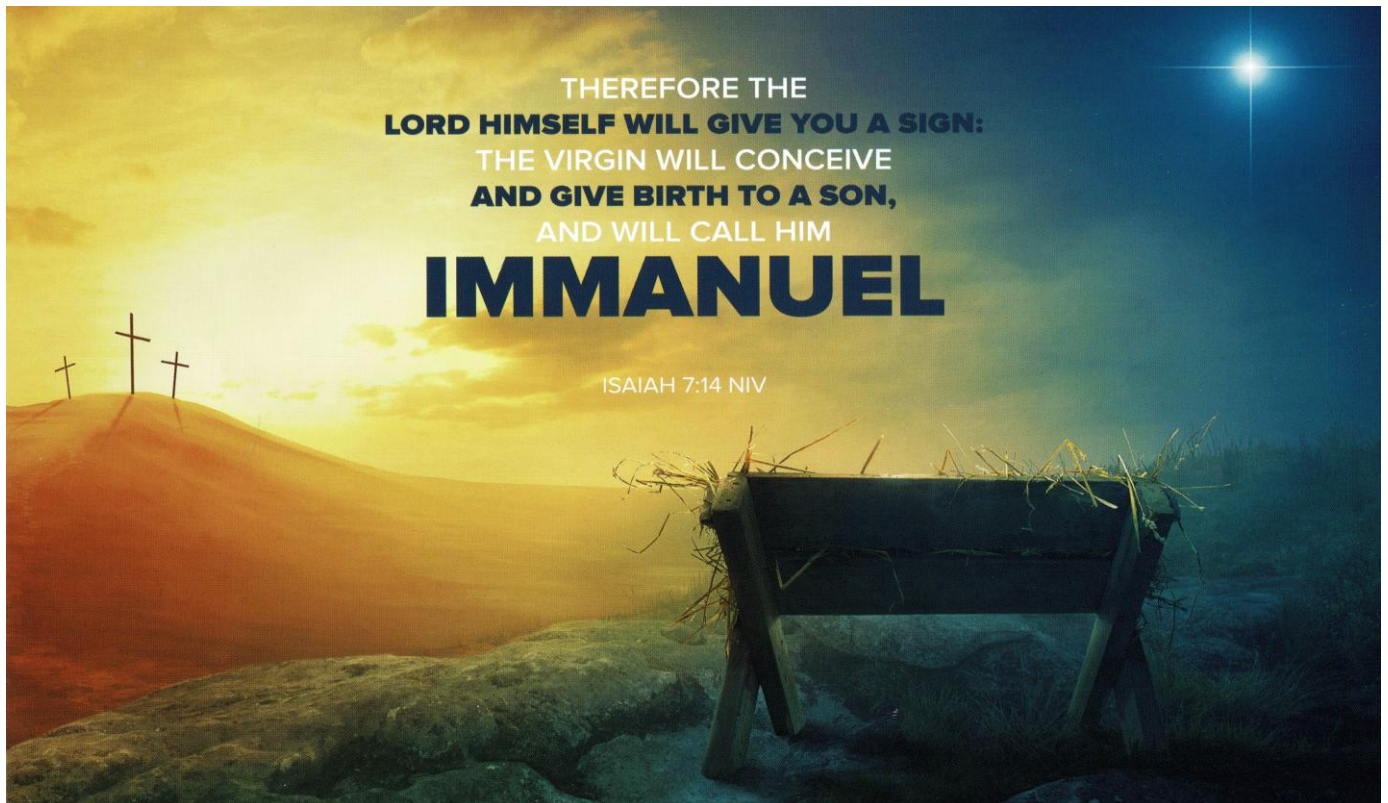


Thought for Christmas Day

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:5 RSV



picture from UCB calendar. (Isaiah 7:14 NIV)

Today we think of Jesus' birth. There are many passages in the Old Testament pointing to Jesus and his life, the crib to the cross. Jesus could not have shaped his birth but God did so it lined up with the prophecies.

So much depended on this little baby, Immanuel, 'God with us'; this little bundle shows how much God loves us. God came to earth in the form of Jesus to be with us, to help us, to come alongside us, to bring love, hope and joy.

Jesus still comes today bringing light into our lives, bringing hope when we are despairing. We too can pass this light and hope onto others so the world becomes a better place.

Prayers

A baby, born in the night to a young mother, far from home and wearied by journeying. Loving God, thank you that Jesus understands us.

We lift before you those who are weary, exhausted, stressed, the anxious and afraid, those weighed down by fear, illness, sorrow or grief. Bring them light to shine in their darkness.

We pray for those who are far from their families, the lonely, the migrants and ask you to give them a feeling of love and belonging.

Lord open our hearts so we can feel your love and hope and help us to bring joy to those around. Amen

Rev'd Sarah Wyman – Associate Priest